

# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

## (Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.  
20737.001

Total Pages in this Submission  
4

### TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Mail Stop Patent Application  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A THIN, RIGID PANEL**

and invented by:

**Charles Pence**

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed are:

### Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 19 pages and including the following:
  - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
  - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)
  - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)
  - d. ☐ Reference to Sequence Listing, a Table, or a Computer Program Listing Appendix
  - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
  - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
  - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
  - h. ☒ Detailed Description
  - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
  - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

17858 U.S. PTO  
10/696448



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**Application Elements (Continued)**

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
- a. ☒ Formal      Number of Sheets      4
- b. ☐ Informal      Number of Sheets      \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly executed *(original or copy)*      ☐ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney      ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,  
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*  
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under  
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby  
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ CD ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
7. ☐ Application Data Sheet (See 37 CFR 1.76)
8. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CFR)
- b. ☐ Specification Sequence Listing on:
- i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
- ii. ☐ Paper
- c. ☐ Statement(s) Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

**Accompanying Application Parts**

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449      ☒ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class      ☒ Express Mail *(Specify Label No.):* EV 125792246 US

*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*

**Total Pages in this Submission**  
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**(Small Entity)**

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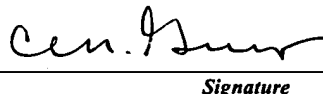
**Fee Calculation and Transmittal**

**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	26	- 20 =	6	x \$9.00	\$54.00
Ind p. Claims	2	- 3 =	0	x \$43.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$385.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$439.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$439.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 50-2555 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated: October 29, 2003

  
Signature

Charles D. Gunter, Jr.  
Reg. No. 29,386  
Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, LLP  
3500 City Center Tower II  
301 Commerce Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4186

CC:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)**

Applicant(s): Charles Pence

Docket No.

20737.001

Serial No.

Filing Date

Examiner

Group Art Unit

Invention: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A THIN, RIGID PANEL**I hereby certify that this Utility Patent Application Transmittal (Small Entity)

(Identify type of correspondence)

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under  
37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C.

20231-0001 on October 29, 2003

(Date)

Sarah Horner

(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)

Sarah Horner

(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)

EV 125792246 US

("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)

**Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.**

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
20737.001

In Re Application: Charles Pence

Serial No.

Filing Date

Examiner

Group Art Unit

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A THIN, RIGID PANEL**

**Payment of Fee**

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
- ☒ The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Credit any overpayment.
- ☐ Charge any additional fee required.

**Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile\***

I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (F

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

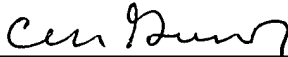
I certify that this document and fee is being deposited 10/29/2003 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

  
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Sarah Horner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate

\*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.

  
Signature

Dated: October 29, 2003

Charles D. Gunter, Jr.

Reg. No. 29,386

Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, LLP

3500 City Center Tower II

301 Commerce Street

Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4186

(817) 878-0504

cc:

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))**

Docket No.  
20737.001

In Re Application Of: **Charles Pence**

Serial No.

Filing Date

Examiner

Group Art Unit

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A THIN, RIGID PANEL**

Address to:

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**37 CFR 1.97(b)**

1. ☒ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

**37 CFR 1.97(c)**

2. ☐ The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:
- ☐ the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);
- OR**
- ☐ the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).